

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids, ~~characterised in that these~~ the derivatives ~~comprise~~ comprising oligomers of the lipids selected from ceramides and/or sphingosines.

2. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fatty acid component of the sphingosines and the fatty acid components of the ceramides comprise palmitic acid (n-hexadecanoic acid, $C_{15}H_{31}-COOH$) or another monocarboxylic acid with a chain length of between 10 and 40 C-atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to claim 1 ~~and 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fatty acid components are selected from the saturated monocarboxylic acids n-dodecanoic (lauric acid, $C_{11}H_{23}-COOH$), n-tetradecanoic acid (myristic acid, $C_{13}H_{27}-COOH$), n-octadecanoic acid (stearic acid, $C_{17}H_{35}-COOH$), n-icosanoic acid (arachidic acid, $C_{19}H_{39}-COOH$), n-tetracosanoic acid (lignoceric acid, $C_{23}H_{47}-COOH$), *cis*- Δ^9 -hexadecenoic acid (palmitoleic acid, $C_{15}H_{29}-COOH$), *cis*- Δ^9 -octadecenoic acid (oleinic acid, oleic acid, $C_{17}H_{33}-COOH$), *cis,cis*- Δ^9,Δ^{12} -octadecadienoic acid (linoleic acid, $C_{17}H_{31}-COOH$), all-*cis*- $\Delta^9,\Delta^{12},\Delta^{15}$ -octadecatrienoic acid (linolenic acid, $C_{17}H_{29}-COOH$), α -hydroxytetracosanoic acid (cerebronic acid, $C_{22}H_{45}-CHOH-COOH$) or from decanoic acid ($C_{10}H_{21}-COOH$), octacosanoic acid ($C_{28}H_{57}-COOH$) or *cis*- Δ^9 -octacosanoic acid ($C_{28}H_{55}-COOH$).

4. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, within the oligomeric lipid molecule, the cross-linkage of respectively two adjacent lipid monomers is effected strictly alternately either in the "tail-to-tail" arrangement or in the "head-to-head" arrangement.

5. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein two adjacent lipid molecules are bonded respectively in the “tail-to-tail” arrangement via their hydrophobic fatty acid radical, preferably via the ω -position carbon atom of the fatty acid chain, by a covalent bond.

6. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein two adjacent lipid molecules are bonded respectively in the “tail-to-tail” arrangement via a so-called “intradimeric spacer” with a freely selectable molecule chain length and composition.

7. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the intradimeric spacer comprises at least one carbon atom and/or at least one heteroatom (oxygen, nitrogen, etc.).

8. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein two adjacent lipid molecules are bonded to each other in the “head-to-head” arrangement respectively via their hydrophilic structural component.

9. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein two adjacent lipid molecules are bonded in the “head-to-head” arrangement via a so-called “interdimeric spacer” with a freely selectable molecules chain length and composition.

10. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the spacer situated between the two lipid dimers which are cross-linked in the “head-to-head” arrangement is predominantly hydrophilic.

11. (Currently Amended) Derivatives of natural, semisynthetic and synthetic lipids according to ~~claims 9 or 10~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the spacer situated between the two lipid dimers which are cross-linked in the "head-to-head" arrangement contains as structural components, e.g. glycerine, amino acids and/or carbohydrate components (monosaccharides, disaccharides, oligosaccharides etc.), and/or further structural components such as e.g. mevalonic acid or pyrrolidone carboxylic acid.

12. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical preparation containing lipids according to ~~at least one of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 as active substance.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)